

Wycombe chairman

dies

Jack Smethurst, popular chairman of Wycombe Wanderers F.C., died in Wycombe General Hospital on Friday morning. He was 64.

Mr. Smethurst went into hospital again a fortnight ago. He appeared to be making steady progress but had a heart attack on Friday morning. Last year he spent three months in Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, with circulation trouble. He was seen by thousands on television when ITV's cameras filmed the Wycombe Wanderers v Middlesbrough F.A. Cup tie.

A former Guardsman, Mr. Smethurst spent a life-long career in the police force and was Superintendent at High Wycombe Division when he retired.

He was associated with Wycombe Wanderers before becoming chairman in 1965, succeeding Mr. Eric Webb. He was also a club vice-president.

An all round sportsman, Mr.

Smethurst was keenly involved with police sports, especially football.

At Wycombe's F.A. Cup



JACK SMETHURST

match against Croydon on Saturday, a minute's silence was observed before the kick-off in his memory and both sides wore black armbands. A similar tribute was paid at Marlow F.C. before their match with Aylesbury in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup competition.

The Croydon club expressed their sincere condolences in a loudspeaker announcement which stated: "Jack Smethurst was a man who did a great deal for football. Not only for Wycombe Wanderers but for the Isthmian League in general."

Wanderers secretary Mr. Tony Mahoney said on Monday: "Jack was an honest and straightforward man. If he thought something was right he would go ahead and do it. Our club will miss him enormously."

Mr. Smethurst leaves a wife and a son and daughter. The funeral was held at the Parish Church, High Wycombe on Tuesday morning.